

(a) whether the Government have received representation for sanction of Science Centre/Museum at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh,

(b) if so the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) and (b) The National Council of Science Museums Calcutta, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Culture, has received a proposal for setting up of a Science Centre in Vijayawada from Andhra Pradesh Council of Science and Technology, an Andhra Pradesh Government Institution

(c) In terms of the extant policy of the National Council of Science Museums, the Science Centre in question could be set up provided the Government of Andhra Pradesh make available a developed site and agree to share the cost of construction. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have since agreed to these conditions of the Council

Preservation of Orchids

5367 SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHAN DARI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether certain species of orchids in India are facing extinction

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) the steps being taken to preserve them

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a gene sanctuary in Shimla for preservation of such endangered orchids and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR MANGALAM) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) A list of orchid species in danger of extinction is given in attached Statement-I

(c) The information is given in attached Statement-II

(d) No Sir

(e) Does not arise

STATEMENT-I

- 1 *Anoectochilus nicobanicus*
- 2 *Anoectochilus rotundifolius*
- 3 *Anoectochilus tetrapteris*
- 4 *Aphullorchis gollani*
- 5 *Cerymborkis veratfolia*
- 6 *Cymbidium whiteae*
- 7 *Didickea cunninghamii*
- 8 *Flickingeria hesperis*
- 9 *Malleola andamanica*
- 10 *Paphiopedilum druryi*
- 11 *Paphiopedilum fairmairianum*
- 12 *Paphiopedilum wardii*
- 13 *Phalaenopsis speciosa*
- 14 *Renanthera lmschootiana*

15. *Taeniophyllum andamanicum*
16. *Zeuxine pulchra*
17. *Calanthe aurantiacum*
18. *Calanthe anthropophora*
19. *Dendrobium aurantiacum*
20. *Eulophia nicobarica*
21. *Dendrobium tenuicaule*

STATEMENT-II

The State Governments have set up a number of national parks and sanctuaries which preserve both the fauna and the flora including orchids, and some of these protected areas give particular attention to the endangered species of orchids.

International Trade in Orchids is one major threat to their survival. The Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to effectively deal with illegal trade. A few Orchid Species which are much sought in international trade and are consequently endangered, are included in Appendix-I of CITES, to ensure a total ban in their export and the protection of their natural populations.

After the amendment in 1991 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, some other orchid species have been brought within the purview of the Act to check wanton collection of natural populations and to regulate their trade.

The Botanical Survey of India has introduced several hundred orchid species into its National Orchidaria to ensure ex-situ conservation of these species. About 400 species are being reared in these Orchidaria/experimental gardens through successful multiplication techniques. Tissue culture techniques are now employed for mass propagation.

The State Forest Departments of Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal have respectively established orchidaria at Tipi near Bhalukpong and Tagda near Kalimpong for research and propagation. The Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute near Thiruvanthapuram, of the Government of Kerala is actively engaged in research and in the propagation of orchids.

[Translation]

Indian Forest Service Officers

5368. SHRI MANKURAM SODHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned posts of Indian Forests Service Officers in various State Forest Departments, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of posts out of them reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) the number of reserved posts lying vacant and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-